

NAMING NEW FACILITIES

Background

Recognizing that the use of place-based names, although not for buildings, has been an Indigenous practice since time immemorial, names for new school facilities will be place-based.

The Board (as per VSB [Policy 2 - Role of the Board](#)) will provide direction at the commencement of a naming process and approve the naming of educational facilities.

Guidelines

- New school facilities shall be given a place-based name(s) which is/are meaningful and reflect the significant geography of the area.
- The relationship between the school building and the land on which it is located is important in the naming process.
- In selecting a place-based name(s) that acknowledges and honours Indigenous history, it is necessary to seek early engagement and involvement of the three host nations.
- Dual English and First Nations language(s) place-based names may be considered. Dual names are not required to be a direct translation, and as such may have separate meanings.
- An education and communication plan will be developed and implemented to support understanding the history and significance of a new school name(s) and to teach the proper pronunciation of the name(s) given.
- Secondary schools will officially use the designation "Secondary School" after the selected name(s), elementary schools will officially use the designation "Elementary School" after the selected name(s), and elementary school annexes will officially use the designation "Annex" after the selected name(s).
- A facility name that is already in use in another District, especially a neighbouring one, is to be avoided.

Procedures

The following procedures are necessary prior to Board approval to name a new school facility as per Board Policy 2.

1. The Board will provide direction at the commencement of the naming process by initiating the official naming committee for a particular school site.
2. The process of naming a new school will begin as soon as possible after a project has funding approval.
3. The Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education will contact the three host nations to request their guidance and direction in identification of a First Nations language(s) place-based name(s).
4. A District committee will be formed to:
 - 4.1 Liaise with the three host nations in determining a First Nations language(s) place-based name(s).
 - 4.2 Consider dual English and First Nations language(s) place-based names for the school.
 - 4.2.1 If a dual name is to be given, the Committee will seek community input on possible place-based names.
 - 4.3 Provide guidance on the development of an education plan to support understanding the history and significance of the new school name(s).
 - 4.4 Make a naming recommendation to the Facilities Planning Committee through the Superintendent.
5. The committee will consist of:
 - 1 Associate Superintendent or Director of Instruction (Committee Chair)
 - 1 Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education
 - Representatives of the three host nations
 - 1 District Parents' Advisory Council (DPAC) Representative
 - 1 VTF (VEAES for elementary /VSTA for secondary) Representative
 - 1 Administrator (VEPVPA for elementary/VASSA for secondary) Representative
 - 1 Student Representative from Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC)

6. The recommendation of the committee will be forwarded to the Facilities Planning Committee through the Superintendent and to the Board for approval. The Board will make the final decision on the name(s) of the new school.

Reference: Sections 22, 65, 85 School Act

Adopted: April 3, 1978

Revised: October 18, 1982; September 1994; January 1999; October 16, 2000; May 2012; September 24, 2018; June 5, 2019; January 10, 2025